

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 14-26 and ADD new claims 27-36 as follows.

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an accounting service in a mobile communication system, comprising the steps of:

accessing a chargeable functionality of said communication system by a user; by authenticating said user by an authentication/authorization server, and authorizing said access of said user by said authentication/authorization server; and

indicating, by said authentication/authorization server, a specific accounting server out of several possible ones ~~ones~~ accounting servers dependent on the user, wherein said accounting server is physically separated from said authentication/authorization server.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 14, wherein said authentication/authorization server is in a home network of said user.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method according to claim 14, wherein said chargeable functionality is a service provided in a visited network of said mobile communication system.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method according to claim 14, wherein said chargeable functionality is a service of said mobile communication system.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method according to claim 14, wherein said accessing ~~step~~ is performed by sending an authentication/authorization request message from an authentication/authorization client, to which said user is currently attached, to said authentication/authorization server, wherein the authentication/authorization server ~~which~~ replies by sending an authentication/authorization answer message to said authentication/authorization client, and wherein said answer message includes said indication of said specific accounting server for said user.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method according to claim ~~14~~18, wherein said authentication/authorization server directly indicates said specific accounting server to said authentication/authorization client, ~~which~~wherein the specific accounting server is ~~handling~~configured to handle said user and ~~keep~~to keep a corresponding account.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method according to claim 14, further comprising: ~~the further step of~~ requesting an accounting for said chargeable functionality from said indicated accounting server by said authentication/authorization client.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method according to claim 20, wherein, during said accessing step, said authentication/authorization client receives a ticket indicating that said user has been granted ~~to access~~ to said chargeable functionality, and said ticket is sent to said accounting server.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method according to claim 21, wherein said accounting server ~~checks~~ is configured to check whether accounting for said user is to be started.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method according to claim 21, wherein said ticket contains an indication of at least one of ~~the information of the group of:~~ to which user ~~the ticket~~ belongs, when the access was granted, for how long the access was granted, and from which client the access was granted.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The~~ method according to claim 21, wherein said ticket is signed by the authentication/authorization server ~~so that it is verified~~ to verify to

the accounting server that the authentication/authorization server really has made the ticket.

25. (Currently Amended) An ~~system~~apparatus for providing an accounting service, comprising: ~~means adapted to perform a method according to claim 14~~
an authentication/authorization server configured to
access a chargeable functionality of said communication system by a user
by authenticating said user and by authorizing said access of said user, and
indicate a specific accounting server out of several possible accounting
servers dependent on the user, wherein
said accounting server is physically separated from said apparatus.

26. (Currently Amended) An ~~accounting server device~~apparatus for providing
an accounting service, comprising: ~~means adapted to perform respective steps of a~~
method according to claim 14
accessing means for accessing a chargeable functionality of said communication
system by a user by authenticating said user and by authorizing said access of said user;
and
indicating means for indicating a specific accounting server out of several possible
accounting servers dependent on the user, wherein
said accounting server is physically separated from said apparatus.

27. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said apparatus is in a home network of said user.

28. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said chargeable functionality is a service provided in a visited network of said mobile communication system.

29. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said chargeable functionality is a service of said mobile communication system.

30. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said accessing is performed by sending an authentication/authorization request message from an authentication/authorization client, to which said user is currently attached, to said apparatus, wherein the apparatus replies by sending an authentication/authorization answer message to said authentication/authorization client, and wherein said answer message includes said indication of said specific accounting server for said user.

31. (New) The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said apparatus is configured to directly indicate said specific accounting server to said authentication/authorization client, wherein the specific accounting server is configured to handle said user and to keep a corresponding account.

32. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said authentication/authorization client is configured to request an accounting for said chargeable functionality from said indicated accounting server.

33. (New) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein, during said accessing, said authentication/authorization client is configured to receive a ticket indicating that said user has been granted access to said chargeable functionality, and said ticket is sent to said accounting server.

34. (New) The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said accounting server is configured to check whether accounting for said user is to be started.

35. (New) The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said ticket contains an indication of at least one of to which user the ticket belongs, when the access was granted, for how long the access was granted, and from which client the access was granted.

36. (New) The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the apparatus is configured to sign the ticket to verify to the accounting server that the apparatus made the ticket.